

Scotland, UK



Enviroco team swap Christmas party for

Summary: Enviroco works around the clock to handle refinery emergency.

Challenge

A structural failure in a storage tank at a North Sea oil refinery resulted in a pressure surge that ruptured the tank. The refinery was shut down as a safety measure and Enviroco's emergency response team were immediately called in to handle the situation.

Solution

Within hours of the alarm being raised, Enviroco's industrial services manager, Gordon Thompson, who had been on his way to the Company's Christmas party, made a two hundred kilometre journey to the site to take the role of on-site incident commander. He coordinated communications between his team of containment specialists, site safety personnel and the fire brigade who spread a three inch deep blanket of foam over the area to dampen down low flash point flames in preparation for Enviroco's part in the clean up.

Enviroco provided the intrinsically safe valves, pumps and specialist road vehicles needed to contain and deal with the spillage. Intrinsically safe devices are safe to use in hazardous areas that may contain flammable vapour in the atmosphere because they are incapable of releasing sufficient electrical or thermal energy to cause fire or explosion. With the equipment in place, Gordon organised his teams into shifts, arranging hotel accommodation for off-shift workers.

Results

After four days working round the clock, the site was returned to operational status with no injuries.



Offshore Logistics

Marine Management

Onshore Logistics

Waste Management

Freight Management

Personnel

Consultancy

Hazardous waste
clean-up services

Scotland, UK



Enviroco's rescue mission

In December 2007, a freak accident triggered an emergency response in which ASCO's waste disposal company, Enviroco, was to play a key role.

Gas separated from oil on the rigs in the North Sea's Brent field is fed to a gas plant at St. Fergus on the East coast of Scotland. After further processing at St. Fergus, natural gas is sent 200 kilometres south by pipeline to the Mossmoran refinery in Fife. Here the refinery 'cracks' the gas into ethane, propane, butane and natural gasoline.

Safety is the highest priority when dealing with such potentially hazardous products and a number of precautions are taken to avoid incidents. Gasoline is stored on site in special tanks which have floating roofs. These roofs rise and fall with the liquid level inside the tank, thereby decreasing the flammable vapour space above the liquid level. As a secondary precaution, tanks are situated within containment dikes (called bunds) so that any leakage can be safely controlled. In addition, bunds force spills to drain into

reservoirs from where they can be safely pumped for disposal.

A structural failure in the internal floating roof mechanism of one tank caused the roof to fall unchecked. The resulting pressure surge ruptured the tank. The refinery was shut down as a safety measure and Enviroco's emergency response team immediately notified.

Enviroco's industrial services manager, Gordon Thompson, was waiting for a taxi to take him to the Company's Christmas party when the alarm was raised. Within hours, Gordon had assumed the role of on-site incident commander. He coordinated communications between his team of containment specialists, site safety personnel and the fire brigade who spread a three-inch deep blanket of foam over the area to dampen down low flash point fumes.

Enviroco provided the intrinsically safe valves, pumps and specialist road vehicles needed to contain and deal with the spillage. Intrinsically safe devices are safe to use in

hazardous areas that may contain flammable vapour in the atmosphere because they are incapable of releasing sufficient electrical or thermal energy to cause fire or explosion. With the equipment in place, Gordon organised his teams into shifts, arranging hotel accommodation for off-shift workers. It took four days working round the clock to make the site safe for operations again.

"We never did reach the Christmas party," said Gordon, "but the most important part is that not a single person was harmed throughout the four day operation."

- 24/7 capability
- Emergency response team availability
- Flexible services
- Provision of appropriate and safe products to handle each job
- Safety is highest priority